

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been canceled. Claims 1-17 and 19-29 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-6, 17 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurosu (U.S. 5,123,005). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarifying of the present invention.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Office Action sets forth that Kurosu discloses that "a first hook step (e.g., portion of chassis on which the elastic portion of (6) is mounted) protruding from one of the tray (7) and the main body (2) and the first stop member (14) provided on the other of the tray (7)."

By way of review, the present application discloses that "the hooking protrusion 242 provided above the plate 241 prevents the tray 250 from escaping from the main body 210. when the tray 250 is assembled to the main body 210o, the plate 241 is deformed downward so that the hooking protrusion 242 is not caught by the second stop portion" in paragraph [0022].

Whereas, Kurosu discloses that "Reference numeral 6 denotes stopper members which are fixed to the slight inside portions of two right and left tray supporting projections 5 which are located at the frontmost positions among the tray supporting projections 5 in the front portion of the chassis 4. The stopper members 6 are made of an elastic member such as a rubber or the like and restrict the pull-in position of a slide..." It would not appear that a portion of chassis on which the elastic portion of (6) has the function of hooking disclosed in Kurosu.

Furthermore, Kurosu discloses that "Reference numeral 15 denotes an abutted member which is projected on the lower surface of the slide tray 7 at a position which is slightly from the front edge portion of the rack 13 toward the left oblique front side. In a state in which the slide tray 7 is pulled into the outer casing, the abutted member 15 comes into engagement with the pull-in state holding member which is located above the loading gear..." It seems that the abutted member operated as a hook step. Accordingly Kurosu fails to disclose "...a first hook step protruding from one of the tray and the main body and a first stop member provided in the other of the tray and the main body at a position to bump against the hook step at a point when load is completed; and a first damper provided at a bump portion of the first hook step and/or the

first stop member" as recited in claim 1.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that Kuroso does not disclose the invention recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, claims 2 and 4 are deemed patentable due at least to their depending from claim 1.

OBJECTION OF CLAIMS 7-15:

At page 4 of the Office Action, claims 7-15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, reconsideration of claims 7-15 and 16 is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 17 and 19-29 have been allowed.

CONCLUSION:


If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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